THE PEACE MISSION.

Vice President Alexander II. Stephens, Senator R. M. T. Hunter and Judge John A. Campbell at Fortress Monroe.

Secretary Seward Gone Down to Meet Them.

OUR SPECIAL DESPATCHES

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF THEIR MISSION.

They Come on An Informal Invitation from Mr. Lincoln.

They Are Without Credentials, Have No Power to Negotiate Peace. and Are Merely Informal Agents of Jeff. Bavin.

Their Coming the Result of Mr. Blair's Visit to Richmond.

Sketches of the Rebel Commissioners.

Agents of the French and English Governments Reported in Richmond,

&c., &c.,

Our Special Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1865. We have had a surfeit of peace rumors here to-day, and it is exceedingly difficult, out of the mass of contrathe case appear to be these: The delegation from Richmond were admitted within the lines yesterday, and to day started down the James river on an army transport. They were, however, stopped at Fortress Monroe, and Becretary Seward started for Annapolis at noon to meet

There is reason to believe that they are not to con Washington at present, but any negotiations or confer-ence in regard to a settlement of the difficulties will be conducted at the fortress by Secretary Seward in behalf of the government. This may be done to prevent the publi-

The whole affair is involved in a good deal of mystery, and, while accredited representatives of the rebel gov ling to receive and consider any suggestions which they may be desirous of making, looking to a settlement upon the basis of a return to the Union, leaving the que of slavery to be determined by the action of the States

It must be borne in mind that this whole Blair negotia tion has been conducted under the auspices of Mr. Sew ard, and this is believed to be only a continuation of

Secretary Seward En Route to Meet the

BALTIMORE, Feb. 1, 1865 ard, accompanied by his private secretary, who im atch steamer, to meet the rebel commissioners. were met at the depot by General Berry, and somed by Governor Bradford.

Mr. S. Cadwallader's Despatch

City Point, Va., Jan. 31, 1865.

The peace rumors which have gained such circulation in the North by the recent visits of Francis P. Blair, Sr. and General Singleton to the rebel capital, have at length acquired prominence in army circles, and are being dis consect in field and camp. As might be expected, the feeling is different; but few officers or privates believe an honorable peace obtainable at present, or have faith in the schemings and plottings of such ambassadors. To the army the war is a practical reality, to be ended only practical manner. Our government de unconditional submission to the feder smancipating slaves. The rebels fight for a national to dependence and the perpetuation of slavery. The war ust, of necessity, go on until one of the parties will consent to a modification of the terms. Our practical diplomats, with cannon and carbine, believe the time has ot yet arrived for the rebels to submit without condi tions, and are equally certain the spirit of our people

It cannot be concealed, however, that a marked shange has taken place in Southern minds regarding the conditions and desirability of peace within a few months. The tone of the Richmond press ussion. They become ecstatic in their admiration of the golden, glorious future possible, could the Union pastures of national amity and reconstruction.

But these vague yearnings are daily taking more tangi-Blair did much to tickle our vanity and mollify the re-centment of Jefferson Davis. Rumors of peace became nmon in Richmond as Washington. For some days past mysterious intimations in the Richmond papers een foreshadowing some coming event. Speculation was on liptoc-excitement intense. Yesterday the councement was made in their papers that "Vice Preformer Assistant Secretary of War, and Hon, R. M. T. Hunter, were on their way to Washington as commis-ationers of peace." It was stated that these lemon left Richmond for Petersburg on Sunday afnoon, would pass through our lines and over Grant's military railroad to City Point on Monday, and were

then well on their way to the federal capital. Yesterday morning these persons applied for admission through our lines by flag of truce in front of the Ninth I am informed and believe—although official rence has prevented a confirmation of the rumor—some sechnical formalities delayed the immediate transmission of a reply, but to day will reveal the truth of all I have

powers with which these commissioners are clothed, but have very faint expectations of peace resulting. They ple, and believe in that sense the mission will not be s

The Press Despatch.

VIA WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1865. Testerday a flag of truce appeared on the line in front of Petersburg, occupied by the Ninth corps, and mea-

Alexander H. Stephens and Senator R. M. T. Hunter, commissioners from the Southern confederacy, to pass through our lines for the purpose of proceeding to Wash-ington, supposed to be for the purpose of proposing terms of peace, or for a conference on that subject with

Owing to some misunderstanding they did not come through our lines; but it is expected that the matter will be speedily arranged, and that they will arrive to-day, and at once be conveyed to Washington in a special boat. This is the only event of any interest that has occurred

The troops are being inspected and drilled by squads, companies and regiments. This occupies most of the time of the officers.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

DEPARTURE OF THE REBEL PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, Jan. 30.] s. A. H. Stephens, R. M. T. Hunter and John A. Campbell teft Richmond yesterday morning on their way to Washington, to confer with President Lincoln on the abject of putting an end to the war if possible. The circumstances under which these gentlemen have departed on their mission are understood to be as follows:—Mr. F. P. Biak having sought an unofficial and confidential interview with Provident State of the confidential with an assurance that our President would be willing at any time, without any obstacle of form, to send agents or commissioners to Washington to confer about terms of peace, if informed in advance that said Commissioners would be received. On Mr. Blair's second visit to Richmond he brought the consent of Mr. Lincoln to receive and confer with any agents informally sent with a view to the restoration of peace. The three gentlemen who left yesterday were thereupon selected by the President, and they have gon without formal credentials, and merely as informal agents, to see whether it is possible to place a conference for peace on any basis which may serve for attaining so des result. It is possible that success may attend their efforts; but wisdom and prudence demand that we indulge in no confident expectations on the subject, and that we reiax not one moment in energetic preparation for the ensuing campaign. From the choice made by the President we may rest assured that no means will be left untried to effect peace, if it be possible to obtain it; but if the three eminent citizens selected for the purpose shall fall in their attempt, one good result will certainly have been reached. All discordant counsels on this subject will have become reconciled, and it will no longer be in the power of the factious or the timid to persuade the people that peace can be reached by any path other than that opened for us by stout hearts and stout hands. THE COMMISSIONERS ARE ONLY REPEATING THE BLAIR EXPERIMENT.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Jan. 30.]
The Blair mission has suggested to some of our leading men the propriety of a reciprocal experiment for peace, and Vice President Stephens, Judge Campbell, Assistant Secretary of War and Senator Hunter, of Virginia, have, with the knowledge and approval of the President, determined to visit Washington to see what can be done owards the great end so much desired. These gentlemen are fully posted upon all matters involved in propositions of peace, and if they meet with the encouragement their humane and patriotic impulses deserve the way will be opened for regular and, it is to be hoped effective negotiations. The commissioners left Richmond yesterday morning by the Petersburg Railroad for will meet them and transport them to Washington. THE FAILURE OF THE COMMISSIONERS ANTICIPATED

[From the Richmond Whig, Jan. 30.]
We have arrived at a critical point in our contrav

with the government at Washington and the people it represents. Commissioners have left this capital for that of the enemy, under a quasi invitation from President Lincoln, to discuss the possibility of adjusting the matters in dispute and ending the war. It is of vital importance that we should just now remember that we are dealing with an exceedingly artful and thoroughly unscrupulous foe. It is not impossible that this is an the war, and that such may be the result; but it is not safe for us to think so. On the contrary, while our coma satisfactory peace, and while our people should second these efforts with their prayers, it is just the time above all thers when we should put forth every exertion and strain every muscle in preparation for continued war. If the enemy desire peace these efforts will not diminish their de-

We confess, with regret, that we see but little evidence.

nd indulge but the faintest hope, that they are prepared accord us such terms as we could think of accepting. aus been but a little while since, by the re-election of peace except such as should be dictated by conquerers to he vanquished. Nothing has occurred since to mollify their disposition; but much to strengthen their conviction that they can subjugate us. Even the party opposed to Lincoln's re-election only talked of negotiation and states manship as a means of restoring the Union. The visit of our commissioners may be permitted only for the purpose of satisfying all parties there that no peace can be with us except on the basis of separation. Many of the late supporters of McClellan are pledged, when satisfied of this, to the most unrelenting war. Their accession to the administration party would relieve Lincoin of many embarrassments and give him full swing. Moreover, a call for three hundred thousand fresh troops they have been assured by the Tribune and other leading papers that it is not at all likely they will ever have to are or face a gun. The actual pendency of negotiations for peace—the declaration, perhaps, of a truce—would be powerful backer to the promise that they will not have to fight. A large bounty and a few weeks of barrack life only would be a temptation too strong for the multitudes of moneyless idlers and immigrants in the North to regist. Seward may believe that he can, by one pretext of another, keep our commissioners in Washington till all the recruits needed are in this way obtained. It is well to recollect how he played with and deceived the com missioners that visited Washington in March, 1861, keeping them there a whole month, while a naval expedition was preparing for the relief of Fort Sumter, and pledgated. Judge Campbell, at least, will not be aut to forget what occurred on that occasion. Knowing, then, that we repeat that the only safe course to be pursued is to set to work immediately, and with all possible energy, prepare for the spring campaign. If peace should inter vene these preparations will have done no harm; if war should continue they will fit us to face it. If we permit ourselves to be deceived and thrown off our guard, growing weaker daily while they grow stronger, we shall reap

The President has done well in the selections be has nade of commissioners. The choice of Mr. Stephens shows a proper regard for that sentiment in the country least satisfied with his administration. Mr. Hunter re ion of these States was based; while Judge Campbell may be taken as the exponent of those shades of opinion that lie between the extremes. They are gentlemen o mission on which they have gone, and of such fairness and such character and ability as to give dignity to the great n as to furnish assurance to the enemy that we are acting in good faith and with a sincere desire to accom plish a satisfactory settlement. The President, we say, selections he has made that deference for the judgment and wishes of the people that should always govern the in this spirit, we hope that he will take all needful steps for the contingency of the failure of negotiations. We have not yet heard that he had called General Lee to the position provided for him by Congress, nor that he has restored General Johnston to the command of the Army of Tennessee, as urged upon him in so imposing a form The Cabinet, with one exception, remains unchanged The Bureaux of Subsistence, Conscription, &c., continue mand a desirable share of public confidence. The office of energy and system. In these and in many other things

ERNMENTS REPORTED ARRIVED IN RICHMOND. [From the Richmond Whig, Jan. 30, local column.] Judge Campbell, of the War Department, left this city yesterday morning by the Petersburg train for Old Point, on a mission connected with negotiations with the United States government looking to peace. Whether thy will meet the federal commissioners there or preceed Washington we have not been informed.

Upon the heel of the departure of our coma rumor gained currency that bearers of despatches had arrived in Richmond from both the French and English governments. We need hardly add that we could trace
it to no authentic source.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 30.]

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 30.]
There was no war news yesterday, but in lieu thereof
seace rumors were as plentiful as blackberries. These were of every variety of shade and color, and owed their origin chiefly to the fact that President Davis had ap pointed three peace dommissioners to proceed to Washington. This fact became publicly known, and at once the floor of rumors was let loose. It were idle to attempt to recap tulate them. All that is known regarding these peace ssioners is that Vice President Stephens, As Secretary of War Campbell and Senator R. M. T. Hunter, having, pursuant to an understanding come to with Mr. Francis P. Blair, been appointed by Mr. Davis as peace commissioners, left this city by the Petersburg train yesterday morning, at ten o'clock, or route for Washington. From Petersburg they have by this time gone by Grant's military railroad to City Point, whence they will proceed to Bultimore or An napolis by steamer. It is feared that the cold weather by obstructing navigation, will retard them in their trip Nothing is known here as to the powers with which these commissioners are clothed. There are a thousand being based on no known fact, are worthless. About being cased on no known fact, are workness. Asoni-half of our people think that peace is some how to some out of this commission, while the other half hope nothing better from it than that our whole people, being convinced there is no prespect of an honorable peace, will be united as one man in the determination to prosecute the war with increased vigor. The failure of the commissioners must have this effect for there can be no question Stat, in their various senti ments, they fully represent all classes of the loyal people

of the Southern States.

The sensation produced in Richmond by Mr. Blair's maelstrom of excitement into which the cities of the North will be thrown by the advent of the "rebel peacet sioners." Already New York is in a con over the news of their coming, which has been flashed are already on the track of the three gentlemen, and tomorrow morning the papers will be filled with their accounts. The Herald will have a dozen column of "the rebel peace commissioners;" "their powers; "how they look;" "what they say;" "what they eat," &c., &c. The illustrated papers will contain their photographs. How they looked before the war and how they look now. In short, the "rebel commissioners" will be a nine days' wonder to the Yankee nation, and as such, and coming in just the nick of time to break the dreary monotony of the winter campaign, will be hailed with

THE POWERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 30.]
For so far the treacherous policy of the enemy that peace was somehow coming, has succeeded per-The enemy knew the weakness of our Pro dent, they remembered the Jaquess-Kirke affair, and made no doubt that if they sent a well known old Wash ington schemer he would be at once received-creder heart, and then a thousand rumors could not fail to fly abroad through the army and amongst the citizens, and to every remote village in the confederacy, that peace was in the air, that it was coming, and would be here anon. Thus it was hoped the military nerve of the country would relax, men would surmise that there is no need to make sacrifices and endure privations now at the eleventh hour, and stragglers and absente would deem it not worth while to come back to their commands, and thus the confederacy would be less in a through the Carolinas and of Thomas through East Tennessee, both closing in upon Richmond. This policy horized and unofficial Yankees to private audiences, and their success has blossomed into a rumor that the Presi dent has sent three commissioners to Washington to negotiate something which shall be called a treaty, which rumor is false. It is best to say openly, in plain English, what is going on; to brush away the mystery which has been thrown around the alleged movements looking towards peace, so that nobody may be disappointed

Three eminent Southern statesmen have cone to Wash. ington. They are Vice President Stephens, Senator They are not negotiators, and have no power to treat. They are not even commissioners from our government, nor are much as there has been no appointment by the President or by the Senate. In short, just as Jaquess and Kirke, and after them Mr. Blair, came to Richmond to talk with any one who would converse with them, and were but too successful in getting themselves received at the Executive massion, so these three Confederate gentlemen go to Washington to have a conversation with the enemy, though it is doubtful whether they will have equal suc cess in being admitted to the White House.

Now it would be unjust to prejudge the action or impugn the motives of the three gentlemen who have gone thus into the enemy's country. It may be that they go to Washington knowing very well beforehand that neither peace nor armistice can come of their proceedings; but hat terms of submission will be offered them so degrading and revolting as at once to shut the mouths of all "peace men" in the confederacy, and unite all the people n the unanimous resolve of Berce resistance to such an insolent and remorseless foe. And we all might know well enough, without sending special messeng rs to hear such of Mr. Lincoln's fellow citizens as may wish to make peace. Not only from all the official declarations of that government, but also from the language held by Mr. Blair to various persons in this city, two-things are certain that the enemy will stipulate-first, for submission to the federal authority; and, second, for abolition of slavery, either immediate or gradual. These are These would decide the whole of the issues of this war and decide them against us. State sovereignty would be finally overthrown by the first condition, and these States would become provinces or departments of an empire which was also the occasion of the present struggle my, by these terms of peace we should confess ourselves conquered. Nor would it end there. We have already several times shown that, if conquered, we must be at the mercy of the conquerors, and that they have already a code of laws enacted to make us know tom that those European Powers are changing the policy in a manner favorable to us, but no occasion will arise at the 4th of March for recognition of any person or any thing. The Buropean Powers know nothing about the 4th of March. They do not renew their recognition of the United States on the inauguration of a new Pres-dent, and they will not be called upon for any action whatsoever that day more than any other day. That delusion may be dismissed. It is true that the enemy is in an eager hurry to finish the war, but for far different reasons. One is the usual Yankee histrionic-melodramatic sort of reason—their desire to have a big fete day, and t commence Lucoln's new term punctually at midnight of the 3d with triumphant bell ringing and cannon salutes over a restored Union. Another reason, and more pressing one still, is, that they understand the meaning of two the old words, vas victis. This is the kind of peace, the only kind, that the three Confederate comdoners will ever hear of at Washington. There are

reanimate the people. Let him not weary nor halt in the work of reform, and the country will again hall him with matter, which it would be as well to dispose of. People say and repeat to one another, rubbing their hands with ocent glee, that there must have been some intimation conveyed to Seward from Europe which makes the enemy so eager now to wind up the war. In fact, that England and France might, could, would or should have informed Lincoln that, if on the 4th of March he be not inaugurated President of the whole of the old States, they, England and France, will then recognize him only as President of those States which concurred in his election. There is not the slightest evidence or foundation of fact for this or any kindred rumor. It is perfectly well known that they are at the end of their resources if we choose to hold out in resistance; that both in money and in men their means are exhausted, and that their present armies in the field are their less very second. armies in the field are their last. Yet, after all, it is not so much to conclude a peace they send their ers and open their sham negotiations as to deceive and distract us from the measures needful for our defence, while they move forward towards the final investment of Richmond. They prefer to enter the city as conquerors tather than to obtain peace by treaty between Richmond and Washington. At all events, if peace is offered, the terms of it will be as above stated. How will the army like it? Do Confederate soldiers indeed confess themselves so utterly beaten that after the toils and sacrifices of four years, after the loss of so many by land and sea, they would yield up the whole cause for which they fought—the sovereign right of their native States, the control over their own institutions, the pos session of their right to property, the inheritance of their own children? Our soldiers who have served throughout the war have ever cherished the thought that when the struggle is over, and our independence won, they wil imes proudly wear the gray Confederate uniform and the hard won insignia of their rank, and tell their hildren and their grandchildren the story of some glo rious day when the setting sun illuminated the victorio cross of stars. Yes, and many a bereaved family proserves with fond pride the sword of their lost brothe or son, to attest in future generations how their kindred blood flowed too for Southern independence. But now how would it be if such a peace really fell upon us? Hide, burn every shred of the gray Confederate cioth. Rip off stars and bars, and bury them so that no eye shall see them. Dare no to show the souvenirs of those you have lost, and breathe not their names. Let every vestige and reminscence of the army that fought with Lee and Jackson sink out of sight, and let eternal silence rest over all the department of memory. This must not and this shall not be. There is no need even to speculate upon the beyond measure to permit this journeying to and fro of secret messengers without credentials, at the imminen risk of enervating the military spirit of the country by turning men's thoughts to dreams and visions of peace

at the very moment when every energy ought to b strung and braced for war. However, as it has begun, let us hope that this last step will be the last. All the peace party at the South protests that it will in nowise have peace of submission and of abolition. The parties who have gone to Washington are men of understanding, and they may on their return be able to make plain to the lest intellect that no other peace than that is to be obtained, and so silence all dispute, and so produce a desirable unanimity, and so explode forever all scheme hoped then to see the end of the feeble kind of manage ment in our public affairs. With Lee as general wielding uncontrolled power over all our armies and all our generals, and Brecklinidge in the War Department we trust that the real business of the country will have come chance of being attended to, and the real busines

THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS AT PETERSBURG. PETERSBURG, Jan. 29, 1865. During church hours to day a heavy cannonading wa n progress on our lines, between our and the enemy's

river batteries. sioners, are in the city, and will be passed by flag of ion excites much comment in all circles

More Commissioners.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 30.] Surely now is the season of "commissioners." currently reported in this city yesterday evening that a We have not seen any such gentleman. When Mr Stephens and party went into Grant's lines at Petersburg yesterday morning, on the return of our flag of truce, there came into our lines a gentleman from Illinois named Grant, who is also said to be a peace commi

arrival here of a French commissioner that the rumor s brought down from Northern Virginia that the Frenc Minister at Washington has, from some cause which has not yet transpired, demanded his passports. We have no means of deciding upon the truth of this rumor. Ou latest Northern papers are of the evening of the 23d government that the people have no interest either in the war or the peace which must at some time follow. authentic intelligence concerning great public events, frequently only known to the government, and thereby enable them to give the facts to the country or corre false and pernicious reports. We make this remark generally, not being especially excited thereto by the eport about the French minister

THE REBEL PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

ton are among the most prominent of the Southern leaders, and their antecedents become, under the singua matter of grave interest. One of the rebel papers, from which we have given elaborate extracts on the subject of their vist, and the powers with which they are clothe alludes to them as representing each a different phase of another e radical secessionist, and the third a compromis

The resel Vice President, Alexander H. Stephens, wh one of the commissioners, is looked upon as represent ng the econstruction sentiment in the South. reluctance to engage in the rebellion, and his strong and arnest tenunciations of the action tending towards ecession as the greatest folly ever committed by the outh, have ever made him an object of distrust to the radical accessionists. This distrust has lately been in creased by his letters urging some such action as that pon which he is now engaged.

Februar 11, 1812. He graduated at Franklin College, Athens, Georgia, in 1832, and was admitted to the bar in Georgia Legislature, and served, by rellection, for five successive terms. In 1842 he was in the State Senate of was elected to Congress by a heavy majority. In 1844 he supported Mr. Clay for the Presidency; but, in opposition to lis candidate's views, favored the annexation of Texas. He and the Hon. Willard Brown, of Tennessee were the authors of the resolutions which, as passed, admitted lexas into the Union. In 1847 he submitted series of resolutions on the Mexican war which mibed quently scame the platform of the whig party during the campa'gn of 1848. He opposed the Clayton compronise in 1848, and took a prominent part it the passage of Mr. Clay's compromis measure in 1850. In 1843 he was chairma the Committee on Territories, and aided much in effect ng the passage of the Kansas Nebraska act, in 1854 Then the whig party was broken up Mr. Stephens unite th the democrats, and supported Mr. Buchanan's ad declired a reclection to Congress. During the can gn of 1860 he supported Douglas and Johnston, and posec a dissolution of the Union in case of Mr. Lin

ledgeville, in which he declared that in his judgment "the election of no man, constitutionally chosen to that high office (President), is sufficient cause for any State to sepa rate from the Union." January 19, 1861, when the ordi nance of secession came to a vote in the Georgia State Convention, Mr. Stephens, with Herschel V. Johnson and Hon. Lenten Stephens, voted against it. Notwithstand ing this record of persistent opposition to the secession movement, Mr. Stephens was unanimously elected Vice President of the rebel confederacy by the first rebel Congress, at Montgomery, Alabama, February 8, 1861. Shortly after (March 21) he made a speech at Savannah in vindication or defence of slavery, in which he declared that the new government of which he had just been elected Vice President was founded on slavery as the corner stone of the republic. He reaches Washington at a sin gularly important hour, to find that less than four years have served to destroy the corner stone of which he then

The present is not the first attempt on the part of the rebel Vice President to reach the ear of the President On July 4, 1863, he approached Fortress Monroe on the rebel gunboat Torpedo, and expressed a desire to enter the Union lines, with a letter from Davis to President Lin coin. The purpose of Mr. Stephens on that occasion was in reference to the exchange of prisoners. He failed on

Mr. Stephens lately fell under suspicion in the South for his persistent advocacy of a convention of all th States, looking to a conclusion of the war. His plan was ounced in very strong terms, and his character was handled with great freedom by the rebel press. One of the organs of the rebel administration invited him to resign and "return to the people the office they had so un wisely conferred on him." This crusade of the govern Stephens and Jeff. Davis. This is said to have been con cluded on Friday last, in a long interview which took present mission, and which created a great excitement

Senator Hunter, of Virginia, is the radical secessionis of the peace commissioners, and represents the "last ditch" even of the South. He is of English descent and a native of Essex county, Virginia. In 1834, before he had reached the proper age, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates from his native county, and entered upon public life. He was redlected as a whig lously with Wise and others, State rights men, of that cast, in favor of White, of Virginia, as a candidate for the Presidency against Mr. Van Buren. He avowed himself at this time in oppositon to a national bank, a protective tariff and similar measures. He entered Congress in 1837. In December, 1832, he are already against the latest and similar measures. 1839, he was elected Speaker of the House after a protracted struggle of several weeks' duration. In 1840 he refused to support either Harrison or Van Buren. In 1841 he was reelected to Congress for the third time, and became classed with the democrats, in consequence of which he was defeated in 1843. At the next election seat by a large majority. In 1847 he was elected to the Senate over "Extra Billy Smith." In 1858 he was again chosen Senator, and held his seat as such until 1860. During his two terms he was chairman of the Committee on Finance. His term expired in 1860.

His first open service in the cause of the rebellion was as a delegate to the Montgomery rebel Congress from Virginia. His appointment dates from April 29. On July 25, 1862, he succeeded Robert Toombs, of Georgia, throughout the South as "the right man in the right place." He did not long remain in the position, but resigned in favor of the "little Jew Benjamin" in March, 1862. He has since then been in the rebel Senate, of which body he was President during the protracted ab sence of Mr. Stephens during the first part of the present session of that body.

JUDGE JOHN A. CAMPBELL, OF ALABAMA, sion, was formerly an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He was appointed by Mr. Pierce in 1853, and held his position up to the beginning of the rebellion, when he resigned, May 2, 1861, declaring him his State. During March, 1861, he made himself promi nent as an intermediary between the rebel comin Washington and Secretary Seward. He afterward reported the substance of his efforts to bring about the reception of the commissioners in a long letter, in which he accused Secretary Seward and the administration of ment, and was installed as Assistant Secretary of War which position he resigned about a week since, at the request of the rebel Congress. He now appears as a peace commissioner to Washington

The Skating Ponds.

tinues to impart health and vigor to tens of thousands o 'young America," who, freed from all restraint under reign of Jack Frost, avail themselves of lengthened visit among us to enjoy themselves on the ice. Yesterday, notwithstanding some indications of a and the Fifth avenue pond were in excellent condi tion for skating. Large numbers were present to enjoy the sport, but not to the same extent as on the precedi the sport, but not to the same extent as on the preceding days, from the impression probably that the ice was not in good condition. This, however, permitted a greater latitude to those who were present to exhibit their various accomplishments in this most exhibituding exercise. There were a large number of experienced skaters at the Fifth avenue pond, many of them from distant cities, who while sejourners here from the Canadas and the other provinces, embraced the opportunity of keeping their feet in practice, and whose evolutions were witnessed with much pleasure by thousands of spectators from the grounds and the sheltered plazzas of the proprietors buildings on the shore. There is every prospect for a good time on the ice to-day.

ITALIAN OPERA TO-NIGHT .- To-night the new seas opens at the Academy, with Donizetti's grand opera of Don Scharfian. The original cart, including Zucchi and Massimiliani, will be preserved. All the fine scenery, costumes, increased chorus and splendid pageantre which made this opera the best in scenic and sp ctacular effect ever produced in this country, will be unchanged since its introduction last season. As the subscription may anticipate a brilliant opening pichs.

mentary concert to Gustave De Spiess, at Dodworth Hall this evening. As several of the most distinguished artists in the city have been engaged upon this occasion, it gromises to be one of the finest of the season.

very favorably known to the public, announces her in tention to give a dramatic and poetic recitation at Dod worth Hall, 806 Broadway, on Monday evening next, the 5th inst. The recitation will begin at eight o'clock, and will doubtless be liberally patronized.

PORTRAIT OF GENERAL SHERMAN .- Mr. John C. Buttre, of No. 4s Franklin street, in this city, has just published a splendid steel plate engraving of Major General William T. Sherman, the renowned conqueror of Atlanta and Savannah. This portrait is generally admitted to be one of of art, the lineaments of the face speaking the fixed purposes of the soul. Every patriot should have one these magnificent engravings. Around the portrait is a border giving views of Buzzard's Roost, Kenesaw Mountain and the struggle for Atlanta

a farewell appearance at this theatre last night as Major De Boots, in Everybody's Friend. the part-his old peculiar happiness of manner and atterance-did in some measure revive the pleasant remembrances of by gone days, it was to force a painful contrast between the spirit, galety and force of the ful contrast between the spirit, galety and ferce of the actor's prime and his present tendency to the inevitable screand yellow. His conception of the part of Major Ibe Boots was excellent, and his rendition, except for some delaquencies of voic admirable. The a diese was an exceedingly large and fashionable one, and its routs of applance to the retiring favorite carnest and very hearty. Never before did as actor retire with a more unequive at expression of the good wishes of a public to had so many times provoked to the laughter that "clears the air" and lightens the heart.

THE SOUTH.

THE CABINET CHANGES AT RICHMOND.

Davis Not Disposed to Appoint Lee and Johnston to the Positions Offered Them by Congress.

Breckinridge Installed as Secretary of War,

The Rebel War Department. L. BRECKINRIDGE SECRETARY OF WAR COMING TAX BILL. [From the Richmond Despatch, Jan. 30.]

We think it certain that General Breckinridge has been appointed Secretary of War, though his appointment has not yet been presented to the Senate for its approval. It is said that Mr. E. M. Bruce, of Kentucky, is to be mmissary General. He is spoken of as posses culiar fitness for the office. But the truth is, should Confor all property taken for government use, the labors of the Commissary Department will be immeasurably decreased. There will be then no necessity for imprese-ments. It being once known that the government is giving the highest market price, the hidden stores of the

country will be crowded into the market. In this connection we may mention that the Hou Finance Committee are now perfecting a sweeping tax, bill, which will be ready to take the redundancy of the sums necessarily disbursed by government if it pays market price for property taken for public use. The Tax bilb will raise seven hundred million dollars, and a d scount of fifteen per cent is to be allowed for prompt payment Passage of the Bill to Employ Slaves by

the Rebel Congress.

(From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 30.] The rebel House of Representatives on Saturday passed the Senate bill to provide for the employment of free negroes and slaves to work upon fortifications, &c., with

Davis Has No Disposition to Appoint Lee Commander-in-Chief.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 30.] It is understood that the nomination of General Leg created office of commander-in-chief of the armies of the confederacy. It is known that no steps whatever ence to the resolution recommending the reinstatument

Mosby on His Travels. [From the Richmond Examiner, Jan. 30] We are happy to announce that this distinguished

chieftain has sufficiently recovered from his wound to be able to travel, and that he reached this city yesterday evening by the Central train. A few days will see him Gold in the South. [From the Richmond Dispatch, Jan. 30.]

Gold on Saturday morning opened at forty seven, and ran up as high as fifty-two; but the news of the appoint-

and considerable amounts were sold as low as forty-two Burning of a Hotel at Marietta.

The Marietta Hotel, at Marietta, was destroyed by fire on the night of the 20th inst. The origin of the fire is

THOMAS.

RECONNOISSANCE TO CORINTH. MISS.

THE ENEMY EVACUATE.

HOOD'S MAIN ARMY AT TUPELO.

Our Eastport (Miss.) Correspondence.

Eastrost, Miss., Jan. 21, 1865.
The First brigade, First division of cavalry, Military Division of the Mississippi, and one division of the lix teenth army corps, under command of Brigadier General towards Hood's position. They left here on the 16th inst. for Corinth, passing through Inka and Brownsville. at Corinto, the enemy withdrew into the town. Hood's force in Cerinth is estimated at about four hundred. Hood, with his main force, is at Tupelo. The rebets retreated on the plank road conning to Danville, but not efore our troops had captured thirty-five of them. Before leaving Corinth they burned the depot and Tislas-

Police Intelligence. BURGLARIES IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY—SEVERAL.
MEN AND WOMEN ARRESTED—THE GANG BUSKEN

For nearly two years past the village of Mount Vernon, West-hester county, has been infested by a gang of burglars, mostly from this city, who have broken open and robbed the dwellings of many residents of that place, and it seemed almost impossible to obtain any clue which would justify the author-ties there in making any arrests. At length the burglaries became so frequent that Judge Van Cott, Mr. Dusenbury and many others of the first citizens of Mo int Vernon formed thems lives into a vigilance committee for the purpose of not only arr sining the birglars, but ultimately a curing their conviction and punishment. To aid the committee in their efforts the services of detective Slowey, of the New York force, and officer Montgomery, of Westchester county, were secured, and the officers have succeeded in arresting August Christman, John Fluk, Jacob C. sick, alias "Dutch Charley," John Muller, Jack Adler (colored), Mary Johneon (also colored), George Slovir, Peter Smith, Miss Elliott, Mrs. Moore and her daughter, all of whom stand charged with being concerned in the commission of the numerous burglaries and robberies in Mount Vernon. The prisoners were arrested on warnants used by Judge Meeks, of Mount Vernon, and taken to White Plains, where most of them were committed for trial; three og four were admitted to bail for their future appearance. The officers alleged that the burglars were in the habit of meeting at night at the houses of Mise Elliott and Mrs. Moore for the purpose of perfecting the r plans for plundering the citizens of Mount Vernon. Some of the defendants live in New York and were arrested here, The gang is now thought to be thoroughly broken up, and those not in custody have taken flight and run away. Others of the desperadoes, however, are known, and the police are in pursuit of them. Great credit is due to officer Montgomery and detective Slowey for their visit ance and success in arresting so many of the parties alleged to have been concerned in the burglaries. Westchester county, has been infested by a gang of bur glars, mostly from this city, who have broken open and officer Mostgomery and detective Slowey for their vigi-lance and success in arresting so many of the parties alleged to have been concerned in the burglaries.

Sale of a Newspaper. The Evening Bulletin was sold at auction this afternoon for \$89,000. It was purchased in the interest of the former proprietors, J. S. Chambers and Colonel Cummings retiring.